

**CLAIMS**

1. A method of controlling delivery of text messages to a subscriber in a telecommunications services apparatus, the method comprising the steps of the subscriber making a selection as to a mode of delivery that the subscriber requires for one of (i) a future text message and (ii) a category of future text messages, the subscriber's requested selection being implemented by a message processing means which is part of the home network with which the subscriber's mobile telephone is normally associated, the arrangement being such that any text messages intended by the sender to be delivered to the said subscriber, as intended receiver thereof, are directed to the message processing means which then implements the delivery mode previously selected by the subscriber.
2. The method of claim 1 in which the message processing means is an SMS router.
- 15 3. The method of claim 1 in which a routing query from another network, made in response to a request from a user associated with said another network, is arranged to be intercepted by a signal processing means provided in said home network, said signal processing means then responding to the routing query on behalf of a HLR (home location register) of the home network to provide a modified address which causes the text message from said another network to be directed to said message processing means for implementation of said delivery mode.
- 20 4. The method of claim 3 in which the signal processing means is an SMS router.

5. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which is available is a mode providing a delayed message delivery during selected hours of the day.
6. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which  
5 is available is a mode providing diversion of text messages to fixed line when the subscriber is in a home cell.
7. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which is available is a mode providing diversion of messages to an alternative mobile number.
- 10 8. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which is available is a mode providing diversion of messages on a time of day basis.
9. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which is available is a mode providing conversion of messages to voice for  
15 delivery in a voice call.
10. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which is available is a mode providing special handling of some messages according to originator number.
11. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which  
20 is available is a mode providing filtering of messages by address information or content.
12. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which is available is a mode providing delivery by fax.

13. The method of claim 1 in which one of the delivery modes which is available is a mode providing delivery by e-mail.
14. The method of claim 1 in which the subscriber makes the selection by a USSD command.
- 5 15. The method of any one of claims 1 to 13 in which the subscriber makes the selection by an SMS.
16. The method of any one of claims 1 to 13 in which the subscriber makes the selection by means of an interactive voice call.
- 10 17. A telecommunications services apparatus comprising a message processing means that is capable of storing a selection of at least one selectable mode of delivery of a text message made by a subscriber to a network incorporating the message processing means and to implement at least one previously selected mode of delivery on receipt by the message processing means of a text message, intended for receipt by said subscriber, by forwarding the message to at least one delivery path of the message processing means.
- 15 18. A telecommunications services apparatus as claimed in claim 17 in which the message processing means is an SMS router.
19. A telecommunications network provided with apparatus as claimed in claim 17 and comprising a HLR (home location register) and a signal processing means, said signal processing means being configured in association with the HLR to intercept routing queries sent to the HLR of said network from another network, for receiving a text message from such another network, to communicate with the HLR but to provide a modified address which will cause the text message from said another

network to be sent to the message processing means which will then effect delivery in accordance with at least one previously selected mode of delivery.

20. A telecommunications network as claimed in claim 19 in which the  
5 signal processing means is an SMS router.